

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, YO, US

SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING-PRESS COMMENTS ON TRIAL OF ACCUSED HIJACKERS

1. ZAGREB PAPERS CONTINUE TO FOLLOW PROGRESS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ACCUSED HIJACKERS. OCTOBER 14 EDITIONS OF "VJESNIK" AND "VECERNJI LIST" CARRY ARTICLES BY NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT DRAZEN VUKOV COLIC WHO REPORTS THAT TRIAL ON HIJACKING CHARGES HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON DECEMBER 6. COLIC NOTES THAT FIXING OF TRIAL DATE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW AND DEMONSTRATES THAT HIJACKERS WERE UNABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES BY "LEGAL TRICKS." COLIC ALSO REPORTS THAT HOPES OF "HOSTILE EMIGRE CIRCLES" THAT TRIAL WILL BECOME PROPAGANDA SHOW ARE FADING. FEDERAL JUDGE REPORTEDLY STATED HE WILL NOT PERMIT COURTROOM TO BECOME POLITICAL FORUM.

2. COLIC COMMENTS ON SEVERAL TOPICS INDIRECTLY RELATED TO HIJACKING INCLUDING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND OTHER CASES IN WHICH EMIGRE OR REFUGEE ACTIVITIES HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR US FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE SPECULATES ON OUTCOME OF HIJACKING TRIAL, CONCEDED ON THE ONE SIDE THAT THERE ARE "POWERFUL" EXAMPLES OF INDEPENDENCE OF US JUDICIARY, AND, ON THE OTHER ARGUING THAT, IN DEALING WITH ACTIVITIES OF EMIGRE GROUPS, "AMERICANS ARE LIMITED BY THE DEFENSE OF THEIR OWN IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES AS WELL AS BY THOSE (PRINCIPLES) UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH THEY MOST STRONGLY CRITICIZE." THUS, "IN THE US THEY ARE

FAITHFUL TO THE LETTER OF THE LAW ONLY WHEN THEY WANT TO BE."
DESPITE ALL THIS, COLIC CONCLUDES, "FOR NOW, IT APPEARS THAT IN THE
CASE OF THIS HIJACKING, THE US JUDICIAL SYSTEM WILL ACT AS IT IS
EXPECTED TO." GROSS

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